HIS MAIESTIES Declaration

To all His Loving *SVBIECTS*,

Vpon occaſion of His late Meſſages to both Houſes OF PARLIAMENT,

And their refuſall to Treat with Him for the Peace of the KINGDOME.

Charles R.

OVr expreſſe pleaſure is, That this Our Declaration be publiſhed in all Churches and Chappels within the Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Parſons, Vicars or Curates of the ſame.

Printed by His Majeſties Command at *Oxford*.

Printed for Iohn Benson, and Iohn Vavasor, 1642.

LONDON,

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To all His Loving SUBJECTS,

Upon occasion of His late Message to both Houses

OF

PARLIAMENT,

And their refusall to Treat with Him for the Peace of the KINGDOME.

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His Majesties Declaration to all His Loving Subjects upon occasion of His late Messages to both Houses of *Parliament*, and their refusall to treat with him for the Peace of the *KINGDOME.*

IF it had not evidently appeared to all men who have carefully examined and considered our Actions, Messages, and Declarations, how farre Wee are and have beene from begetting or promoting the present distractions, and that the Armes we have now taken are for the necessary safety and defence of our life, being not taken up by Vs till our Towne and fort of *Hull* were kept from Vs by force of Armes, our Navie imployed against Vs to keepe all forraigne supply of Armes and Money, when our own here was seized and detained from Vs, and an Army raised in pay, and marching against Vs, yet the late reception of our Message of the Twentie fifth of *August* sent by persons of Honour and trust, will sure satisfie the world, that we have omitted nothing on Our part that a Gracious and Christian Prince could or can doe to prevent the effusion of Christian bloud, but that the Malignant party, which have with great subtilty and industry begot this misunderstanding between Vs and our good Subjects, resolve to satisfie and secure their malice and Ambition with the ruine of the kingdome, and in the bloud of Vs, and all Our good Subjects.

When they had forced Vs, after the neglect of our Message from *Beverly*, by raising a great Army and incensing our Subjects against Vs, to erect our Royall Standard, that our Subjects might be informed of our danger, and repaire to our Succour, though we had no great reason to believe any Message of ours would receive a very good entertainement, if those men might prevaile, who had brought all these miseries upon the Kingdome to satisfie their owne private ends; yet observing the miserable Accidents which already befell our good Subjects by the Souldiers under their command, and well

knowing that greater would enſue, if timely prevention were not app'yed; and finding that the malice and cunning of theſe men had infuſed into our People a Rumour, that We had rejected all propoſitions and offers of Treaty, and deſired to engage Our Subjects in a Civill War, which our ſoule abhorres, we prevailed with Our ſelfe (for a full expreſſion of Our deſire to prevent the effuſion of blood) to ſend a gracious Meſſage to both Our Houſes of *Parliament* on the 25. of *Auguſt*. In theſe words,

His Majeſties Gracious Meſſage to both houſes of Parliament, ſent from Nottingham 25. Aug. 1642. By the Earles of Southampton and Dorſet, Sir Iohn Culpeper Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir William Vuedall.

WE have with unſpeakeable griefe of heart long beheld the diſtractions of this Our Kingdome, Our very ſoule is full of anguiſh untill Wee may finde ſome remedy to prevent the Miſeries which are ready to overwhelme this whole Nation by a Civill Warre: And though all our endeavours tending to the compoſing of thoſe unhappy differences betwixt Vs and our two Houſes of Parliament (though purſued by Vs with all Zeale and Syncerity) have beene hitherto without that ſucceſſe We hoped for; yet ſuch is our conſtant and earneſt care to preſerve the publike Peace, that Wee ſhall not bee diſcouraged from uſing any expedient, which by the bleſſing of the God of Mercy may lay a firme foundation of Peace and happineſſe to all our good Subjects: To this end obſerving that many miſtakes have ariſen by the Meſſages, Petitions and Anſwers betwixt Vs and Our two Houſes of Parliament, which happily may bee prevented by ſome other way of Treaty, wherein the Matters in difference may be more cleerely underſtood, and more freely tranſacted; We have thought fit to propound to you, That ſome fit perſons may bee by you inabled to Treate with the like number to bee authorized by Vs, in ſuch manner, and with ſuch freedome of debate, as may beſt tend to that happy Concluſion which all good men deſire, *The peace of the Kingdome:* Wherein as We promiſe in the word of a King, all ſafety and encouragement to ſuch as ſhall be ſent to Vs, if you ſhall chooſe the place where We are for the Treaty, which We wholy leave to you, preſuming of your like care of the ſafety of thoſe Wee ſhall imploy if you ſhall name another place; So We aſſure you and all our good Subjects, that (to the beſt of our underſtanding) nothing ſhall bee therein wanting on our parts, which may advance the true Proteſtant Religion, oppoſe Popery and Superſtition, ſecure the Law of the Land (upon which is built as well our juſt Prerogative, as the Propriety and Liberty of the Subject) Confirme all juſt Power and Priviledges of Parliament, and render Vs and our people truely happie by a good underſtanding betwixt Vs and our two Houſes of Parliament. Bring with you as firme Reſolutions to doe your duty, and let all our good people joyne with Vs in our prayers to Almighty God for his bleſſing upon this worke.

If this propoſition ſhall be rejected by you, we have done our duty ſo amply, that God will abſolve Vs from the guilt of any of that blood which muſt be ſpilt, and what opinion ſoever other men may have of our power, wee aſ-

ſure

re you nothing but our Christian and pious care to prevent the Eff sion of loud hath beget this Motion, our provision of Men, Armes and Money be-ng such as may secure Vs from farther violence, till it shall please God to pen the eyes of our People.

Our Messengers were not suffered to sit in th. Houses, and one of them, the Earle of *Southampton* (against whom there was not the least colour of excep-ion or so much as a Vote) not suffered to deliver our Message, but compelled o send it by the Gentleman Usher, and then commanded to depart the Town, efore they would prepare any Answer which they shortly sent Vs in these words.

May it please Your Majesty,

THe Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, having received your Majesties Message of the 25. of August, *doe with much griefe resent the angerous and distracted state of this Kingdome, which we have by all means ndeavoured to prevent, both by our severall advices and Petitions to your Ma-estie, which have beene not onely without successe, but there hath followed that, hich no ill counsell in former times hath produced, or any age hath seene, nam-y, those severall Proclamations and Declarations against both the Houses of arliament, whereby their Actions are declared Treasonable, and their persons raitors; And thereupon your Majesty hath set up your Standard against them, hereby you have put the two Houses of Parliament, and in them this whole king-me out of your Protection; so that untill your Maiesty shall recall those Procla-ations and Declarations, whereby the Earle of* Essex *and both Houses of Par-iament, and their adherents and assistants, and such as have obeyed and executed heir commands and directions, according to their duties, are declared traitors, or therwise delinquents; And untill the Standard set up in pursuance of the said roclamations bee taken downe, your Maiesty hath put us into such a condition, hat whilest we so remaine, we cannot by the fundamentall priviledges of Parlia-ent; the publicke trust reposed in us; or with the generall good and safety of his kingdome give your Maiesty any other answer to this Message.*

Ioh. Browne Cler. Parl. H. Elsinge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

The Answer of the Lords and Commons to His Majesties Message the 25. of August. 1642.

THis strange Answer might well have discouraged Vs from any thought of proceeding further this way, and informed Vs sufficiently what spirit still governed amongst those few, who continued still in both Houses, otherwise after so many bitter and invective Messages and Declarations sent to Vs, nd published against Vs, we should not have beene reproached with our Pro-amations and Declarations set forth by Vs, as the effect of such evill Coun-ll, as was unparalled by any former examples. We beleeve indeed such roclamations and Declarations have never been before set forth; but were rmer times ever acquainted with such intolerable provocations? were there er, before these Twelve Months, Declarations published in the name of ei-r or both Houses of Parliament to make their King odious to the people?

Have either or both Houſes ever before aſsumed or pretended to a power to raiſe Armes or leavie Warre in any cauſe, or can both Houſes together exerciſe ſuch a Power? Are thoſe Actions which the Law hath defined literally and expreſly to be treaſonable, or ſuch Perſons to be Traitours, not ſo becauſe they are done by Members of either Houſe, or their appointment? And muſt not We declare ſuch who March with Armes and Force to deſtroy Vs, to be Traitours becauſe the *Earle* of *Eſſex* is their Generall? Thoſe whom Wee have or do accuſe, We have named together with their Crimes, notorious by the known Law of the Land, (a favour not granted to our Evill Counſellors) and appeal to that knowne Law to judge betweene Vs: And now that by this we ſhould have put the whole Kingdome out of our Protection (in whoſe behalfe we did all that we have done) is a corrupt Gloſe upon ſuch a Text, as cannot bee perverted but by the cunning practices of ſuch who with not well to King or People, yet that no weake Perſons might bee miſled by that imputation upon, We ſent a Reply to that Anſwer in theſe words.

His Majeſties Reply to an Anſwer ſent by the two Houſes of Parliament to His Majeſties Meſſage of the 25. of Aug Concerning a treatie of accõmodation.

WEE will not repeate what meanes We have uſed to prevent the dangerous and diſtracted eſtate of the Kingdome, nor how thoſe meanes have beene interpreted, becauſe being deſirous to avoyd effuſion of bloud, We are willing to decline all memory of former bitterneſſe that might make Our offer of a Treaty leſſe readily accepted.

We never did Declare, nor ever intended to Declare both Our Houſes of Parliament Traitours, or ſet up Our Standard againſt them, and much leſſe put them and this Kingdome out of Our Protection: Wee utterly profeſſe againſt it before God and the World. And further to remove all poſſible Scruples which may hinder the Treaty ſo much deſired by Vs; We hereby promiſe ſo that a day be appointed by you for the revoking of your declarations, againſt all Perſons as Traitours or other wayes, for aſſiſting of Vs, wee ſhall with cheerefulneſſe upon the ſame day recall our Proclamations & Declarations and take downe Our Standard: In which Treaty We ſhall be ready to grant anything that ſhall bee really for the good of Our Subjects; Conjuring you to conſider the bleeding condition of *Ireland*, and the dangerous conſition of *England*, in as high a degree as by theſe Our offers We have declared Our ſelves to do: And aſſuring you that Our chiefe deſire in this world is to beget a good understanding and mutuall confidence betwixt Vs and Our two Houſes of Parliament.

THis Meſſage produced an Anſwer little differing from the former, like men who had no other meaſure of the Juſtice of their cauſe, then their power to oppreſſe Vs, forgetting their owne duties, they ſharply informe Vs of Ours in theſe words,

M M

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty;

The humble answer and Petition of the Lords and Commons Aſſembled in Parliament, unto the Kings laſt Meſſage.

IF We the Lords and Commons in Parliament Aſſembled, ſhould Repeat all the wayes wee have taken, the endeavours we have uſed, and the expreſſions wee have made unto Your Majeſtie to prevent theſe diſtractions, and dangers Your Majeſty ſpeakes of, likely to fall upon this Kingdome, we ſhould too much enlarge this reply, Therefore as wee humbly, ſo ſhall we onely let Your Majeſty know, that we cannot Recede from our former Anſwer for the reaſons therein expreſſed. For that Your Majeſty hath not taken downe your Standard, recal'd Your Proclamations and Declarations, whereby You have declared the Actions of both Houſes of Parliament to bee Treaſonable and their perſons Traytors. And you have publiſhed the ſame ſince Your Meſſage of the twentie fifth of Auguſt by your late inſtructions ſent to your Commiſſioners of Array, which Standard being taken downe, and the Declarations, Proclamations and inſtructions recalled, If your Majeſtie ſhall then upon this our humble petition, leaving Your Forces, returne unto your Parliament, and receive their faithfull advice, Your Majeſty will finde ſuch expreſſions of our fidelities and duties, as ſhall aſſure You that Your ſafety, Honour and greatneſſe can only be found in the affections of Your people, and the ſincere Counſells of Your Parliament, whoſe conſtant, and undiſcouraged endeavours, and conſultations have paſſed through difficulties unheard of, onely to ſecure Your Kingdomes from the violent Miſchiefs and dangers now readie to fall upon them, and every part of them, who deſerve better of Your Majeſty, and can never allow themſelves (repreſenting likewiſe your whole Kingdome) to be ballanced with thoſe perſons whoſe deſperate diſpoſitions and counſells prevaile, ſtill ſo to interrupt all our endeavours for the relieving of bleeding Ireland, as we may feare our labours, and vaſt expences will be fruitleſſe to that diſtreſſed Kingdome. As your preſence is thus humbly deſired by us; So is it in our hopes your Majeſty will in your reaſon believe, there is no other way then this, to make your ſelfe happie, and your Kingdome ſafe.

John Browne *Cler. Parliament.*

WIthout any bitterneſſe or reprehenſion of their neglect of Vs, and the publike Peace, to expreſſe Our deepe ſenſe of the Calamities at hand, We yet once more (hoping to awake them to a Chriſtian tenderneſſe towards the whole Kingdome) ſent to them in theſe words.

Who

WHo have taken moſt wayes, uſed moſt endeavours, and made moſt rea
expreſſions to prevent the preſent diſtractions and dangers, let all th
world judge, as well by former Paſſages as by our two laſt Meſſages, whic
have beene ſo fruitleſſe, that (though wee have deſcended to deſire and preſ
it) not ſo mu h as a Treaty can be obtained, unleſſe we would denude our ſelfe
all force to defend Vs from a viſible ſtrength marching againſt Vs, and adm
thoſe Perſons as Traitors to Vs, who according to their duty, their Oaths
Allegiance, and the Law, have appeared in defence of Vs their King and Lie
Lord (whom we are bound in Conſcience and Honour to preſerve) though w
diſclaimed all our Proclamations and Declarations, and the erecting of o
Standard as againſt our Parliament. All we have now left in our Power is
expreſſe the deepe ſenſe wee have of the publike miſery of this Kingdome,
which is involved that of Our diſtreſſed Proteſtants of *Ireland*, and to app
our ſelfe to our neceſſary defence, wherein we wholly rely upon the Providen
of God, and the juſtice of our Cauſe, and the affection of our good People, ſo f
we are from putting them out of our protection. VVhen you ſhall deſire a Tre
ty of Vs, we ſhall piouſly remember whoſe bloud is to be ſpilt in this quarre
and cheerefully embrace it: And as no other Reaſon induced Vs to leave o
Citie of *London*, but that with honour and ſafety we could not ſtay there, n
raiſe any force but for the neceſſary defence of our Perſon and the Law, agai
Leavies in oppoſition to both, ſo we ſhall ſuddenly and moſt willingly retur
to the one, and disband the other, as ſoone as thoſe cauſes ſhall bee remove
The God of Heaven direct you, and in mercy divert thoſe judgements whi
hang over this Nation, and ſo deale with Vs and our Poſterity as We deſire t
Preſervation and Advancement of the true Proteſtant Religion, the Lawes a
the Libertie of the Subiect, the iuſt Rights of Parliament, and the Peace of t
Kingdome.

BVt as if all theſe Gracious Meſſages had beene the effects only of our wea
neſſe, and inſtances of Our want of Power to reſiſt that torment, they de
at laſt more plainly with Vs, and after many ſharpe, cauſeleſſe, and unjuſt
proaches, they tell Vs in plaine Engliſh, that without putting our Selfe abſol
ly into their hands, and deſerting all our owne Force, and the protection of
thoſe who have faithfully appeared for Vs according to their duty, there wou
be no meanes of a Treaty, although our extraordinary deſire of Peace had pr
vailed with Vs, to offer to recall our moſt juſt Declarations, and to take dow
our Standard, ſet up for our neceſſary defence, ſo their unjuſtifiable Declara
ons might bee likewiſe recalled, their Anſwer followes in theſe words,

VV

WEE the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, do present this our humble Answer to Your Majesties Message of the eleventh of this instant Month of Septem. when Wee consider the oppressions, Rapines, Firing of Houses, Murthers, (even at this time, whilest You Majesty propounds a Treaty) committed upon Your good Subjects by Your Souldiers, in the presence, and by the Authority of their Commanders, being of the number of those whom Your Majesty holds Your selfe bound in Honour and Conscience to protect as persons doing their duties. We cannot thinke Your Majesty hath don all that in You lies to prevent, or remove the present distractions; nor so long as Your Majesty will admit no peace without securing the Authors and Instruments of these mischiefs from the Justice of the Parliament, which yet shall bee ever dispenced with all requisite moderation and distinction of offences, Although some of those persons be such in Whose preservation Your Kingdome cannot be safe, nor the unquestionable rights and Priviledges of Parliament be maintained, without which the power and dignity thereof will fall into contempt. We beseech Your Majesty therefore to consider Your expressions, That God should deale with You and Your posterity, as Your Majesty desires the preservation of the Just Rights of Parliament, which being undeniable in the tryall of such as We have declared to bee Delinquents, We shall be ive Your Majesty both towards Your Selfe and Parliament will not in this privitedge, We are most sensible of, deny us that which belongs unto the meanest Court of Justice in this Kingdome. Neither hath Your Majesty cause to complain that You are denied a Treaty, when We offer all that a Treaty can produce, or Your Majesty expect, Security, Honour, Service, Obedience, Support, and all other effects of an Humble, Loyall, and faithfull subjection, and seeke nothing but that our Religion, Liberty, peace of the Kingdome, safety of the Parliament may be secured from the open violence, and cunning practices of a Wicked party, who have long plotted our ruine and destruction; And if there were any cause of Treaty, we know no competent Persons to Treat betwixt the King and Parliament, And if both cause and persons were such as to invite Treaty, the season is altogether unfit, whilest Your Majesties Standards is up, and Your Proclamations and Declarations unrecalled, whereby Your Parliament is charged With Treason.

The humble Answer of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament unto His Majesties last Message.

If Your Majesty shall persist to make Your selfe a shield and fence to those Instruments, and shall continue to reject our faithfull and necessary advice for securing and maintaining Religion and Liberty, With the Peace of the Kingdome and safety of the Parliament, Wee doubt not but to indifferent judgements it will easily appeare Who is most tender of that innocent Bloud which is like to be spilt in this cause, Your Majesty, who by such persisting, doth endanger Your selfe and Your Kingdomes, or We, who are willing to hazard our selves, to preserve both. Wee humbly beseech Your Majesty to consider how impossible it is, that any Protestation, though published in Your Majesties name, of the tenderness of the miseries of Your Protestant Subjects in Ireland, of Your Resolution to maintaine the Protestant Religion, and Lawes of this Kingdome, can give satisfaction to reasonable and indifferent Men, when at the same time diverse of the Irish Traytors and Rebels, the knowne favou-

rers of them, and agents for them, are admitted to Your Majesties presence with Grace and Favour, and some of them imployed in Your service; when the Cloaths, Munition, Horses, and other Necessaries bought by Your Parliament and sent for the supply of the Army against the Rebells there, are violently taken away, some by Your Majesties command, others by Your Ministers, and applyed to the maintenance of an unnaturall War against your people here.

All this notwithstanding as we never gave Your Majesty any just cause of withdrawing Your selfe from Your great Councell, so it hath ever been, and shall ever be farre from us to give any impediment to your returne, or to neglect any proper means of curing the distempers of the Kingdom, and closing the dangerous Breaches betwixt Your Majesty and Your Parliament, according to the great trust which lies upon us, and if Your Majesty shall now be pleased to come back to Your Parliament, without Your Forces, we shall be ready to secure Your Royall Person, Your Crowne, and Dignity, with our Lives and Fortunes, Your presence in this Your great Councell, being the only means of any Treaty betwixt Your Majesty and them with hope of Successe.

And in none of our desires to Your Majesty shall we be swayed by any particular mans advantage, but shall give a clear Testimony to Your Majesty, and the whole World, that in all things done by us, we faithfully intend the good of your Majesty, and of Your Kingdoms, and that we will not be diverted from this end by any private, or selfe respects whatsoever.

John Browne *Cler. Parliament.*

THey will not beleeve we have done all that in us lyes to prevent and remove the present Distractions, because of the oppressions, rapines, and the like committed upon our good Subjects by our souldiers. Let them remember who have compelled us, and against our soules desire, forced us to raise those souldiers, and then if the oppressions and rapines were indeed such as are falsely pretended, our poore Subjects who suffer under them, will looke on them, and only on them, as the Authors of all the miseries they do or can undergo, we confesse with grief of heart some disorders have, and many more may befall our good people by our souldiers, but we appeal to all those Counties through which we have passed, what care we have taken to prevent, and what iustice we dayly inflict upon such offendours: neither hath the least complaint been ever made to us of violences and outrages, which we have not to our utmost power repayred or punished; how ever those false & treasonable Pāphlets are suffered which accuse us of giving warrant for plundring of houses. Our Mercy and Lenity is so well knowne to the contrary, that it is usually made an excuse by those who against their consciences assist this rebellion against us, that

that they cause rather to offend us upon the confidence of pardon, then provoke those Malignant persons who without charity or compassion destroy all who concurr not with them in faction and opinion. How farr we are from rapine and oppression may appear by our Lenity to the persons and Estates of those who have not only exercised the *Militia* (the seed from whence this rebellion against us hath growne) but contributed money and plate to the maintenance of that Army which now endeavours to destroy us, as of *Nottingham*, *Leicester*, and many other places through which we have passed many of whom then were and now are in that Army: to let passe our passing by *Chartly* (the house of the *Earle* of *Essex*) without other pressures then as if he were the Generall of our owne Army, and our expresse orders to restraine the Liberty, our souldiers would otherwise have used upon that place, and his Estate about it. How contrary the proceedings are of these great Assertors of the publique Liberties, appears fully by the said instances they every day give in the plundring by publick warrant, the houses of all such whose duty, conscience, and loyalty hath engaged them in our Quarrell, which every good man ought to make his owne. By their declaring all persons to be out of the protection of Parliament (and so exposing them to the fury of their souldiers) who will not assist this rebellion against us, their anointed King, by the dayly outrages committed in *Yorkshire*, when contrary to the desire and agreement of that County (signed under the hands of both partyes) they will not suffer the peace to be kept, but that the distractions and confusion may be universall over the whole Kingdome, direct their Governour of *Hull* to make Warr upon our good Subjects in that County, and so continue the robbing and plundring the houses of all such who concurr not with them in this rebellion. Lastly, by the barbarous, sacrilegious inhumanity exercised by their souldiers in Churches, as in *Canterbury*, *Worcester*, *Oxford*, and other places, where they committed such unheard of outrages, as Iewes, and Atheists, never practised before. God in his good time will make them examples of his vengeance.

VVe never did, nor ever shall desire to secure the Authors and instruments of any mischiefs to the Kingdome from the Iustice of Parliament, we desire all such persons may be speedily brought to condigne punishment by that rule which is, or ought to be, the rule of all punishment, the knowne Law of the Land, if there have seemed to be any interruption in proceedings of this nature, it must be remembred, how long persons have been kept under generall accusations, without tryall, though earnestly desired, that the Members who were properly to judge such accusations have by violence been driven thence, or could not with honour and safety be present at such debates; that notorious Delinquents by the knowne Lawes were protected against us from the Iustice of the Kingdome, and such called Delinquents, who committing no offence against any knowne Law were so voted only for doing their duties to us, and then there will be no cause of complaint found against us.

And for the priviledges of Parliament We have ſaid ſo much and upon ſuch reaſons, (which have never beene anſwered but by bare poſitive Aſſertions) in our ſeverall Declarations, that wee may well, and doe ſtill uſe the ſame expreſſion, That we deſire God may ſo deale with Vs and our poſterity, as we deſire the preſervation of the juſt Rights of Parliament.

The violation whereof in truth by theſe deſperate Perſons is ſo cleerely known to all men who underſtand the priviledges of Parliament, that their rage and malice hath not beene greater to Our Perſon and Government then to the Liberty, priviledge, and very being of Parliaments, witneſſe their putting in putting out, & ſuſpending what perſons they pleaſe, as they diſlike their opinions, their bringing downe the Tumults to aſſault the Members, and awe the Parliament, their poſting and proſecuting ſuch Members of either Houſe as concurred not with them in their Deſignes, and ſo driving them from thence for the ſafety of their lives, their denying Vs, againſt the knowne, eſtabliſhed Law, and the Conſtitution of the kingdome, to have a negative voyce, without which no Parliament can conſiſt, their making cloſe Committees, from whence the Members of the Houſes are exempted, againſt the Liberty of Parliament, and laſtly reſolving both Houſes into a cloſe Committee, of ſeventeene perſons who undertake and direct all the preſent outrages and the managery of this Rebellion againſt Vs, in the abſence of foure parts of five of both Houſes, and without the privity of thoſe who ſtay there, which is not only contrary but deſtructive to Parliaments themſelves. By theſe groſſe, unheard of Invaſions and breaches of the Privledges of Parliament, (and without them they could not have done the other) They made way for their attempts upon the Law of the Land, and the introduction of that unlimited, Arbitrary power which they have ſince exerciſed to the intolerable damage and confuſion of the whole kingdome, And We aſſure Our good Subjects the Vindication of theſe juſt Liberties and Priviledges of Parliament, thus violated by theſe men, is not leſſe the Argument of our preſent quarrell and undertaking, then our owne Honour, Intereſt, and ſafety, thoſe being no way ſo ſecurely to bee preſerved, as by preſerving Parliaments and their juſt Priviledges. Neither is there any Proteſtation to our knowledge publiſhed in our name of our tenderneſſe of the miſeries of *Ireland*, and our Reſolution to maintaine the Proteſtant Religion, and Lawes of this Kingdome, that is not the Proteſtation of our Soule, and manifeſted in all our actions, and Wee hope that falſe Scandall, That diverſe of the *Iriſh* Traitours and Rebels, the knowne favourers of them, and Agents for them are admitted to our preſence with favour and imployed in our ſervice, will gaine no credit with good men, who remember well the notorious imputation ſo confidently and groundleſsly heretofore caſt on us by Maſter *Pym*, of which as there could never be the leaſt proofe, ſo we could never receive any ſatisfaction for that high injury, which might have beene a warning to them to have publiſhed no more ſuch untruths, if they had not found that truth and their Ends cannot meet together.

For the Horſes taken for our Service, which were provided for the ſervice of

Ireland,

Ireland, It is true, Wee were compelled for the bringing our owne waggons from *Chester* for the Carriage of our Munition to make uſe of them, being few in number and of ſmall value, after they were certified to bee of no uſe for the ſervice, for which they were provided. And for the Clothes, upon enquiry We find that ſome few were taken by our Souldiers (but without any order from Vs) going to *Coventry*, and as was probably believed for the reliefe of that place, then in actuall Rebellion againſt Vs, but how farre we have bin, and are from diverting any of thoſe proviſions made for the reliefe of that poore Kingdome (the thought of whoſe miſerable condition makes our heart bleed) may appeare by our expreſſe command given for the ſpeedy tranſportation of 3000. ſuites of Clothes which Wee found provided at *Cheſter*, but neglected to bee ſent, and which no neceſſity of our owne Army here could prevaile with us to ſeize. And how bold ſoever the reproaches of that kind have bin upon Vs, we are confident malice it ſelfe cannot lay the leaſt probable imputation upon us, for the neglect of our duty towards that Kingdome. What one thing in our power have wee neglected or omitted, which might contribute to the aſſiſtance, or eaſe of our poore Proteſtant Subjects there? we firſt recommended the caſe of that buſineſſe to both our Houſes of Parliament. We conſented to all propoſitions made on the behalfe offered to raiſe 10000. Voluntiers, (which if then accepted had ſhortned that worke) offered to venture our owne perſon in the ſervice, what interpretation that offer of ours found, is knowne to all the world, wee parted with our Intereſt in the Land of the Rebels, to encourage ſuch who were willing to adventure in that buſineſſe, and when Money is raiſed by our conſent for that ſole purpoſe, they have at once ſeized on a hundred thouſand pound particularly appointed by Act of Parliament for the reliefe of *Ireland* (our Army being ready to periſh for want of it) and imployed it to maintaine this unnaturall civill Warre at home. They have Leavied men and entertained Commanders for that ſervice, and thed compelled them to joyne in this Rebellion, and to march againſt us, and though they have complained of our keeping the Lievtenant of *Ireland* ſome weeks with us, (when in truth it was a ſeaſon of extraordinary buſines) after we had in vaine for many Moneths preſſed his diſpatch, yet themſelves now detaine him, when his going is ſo neceſſary for the preſervation of that Kingdome. And no doubt theſe men (and theſe alone) by begetting this miſerable diſtraction of *England*, are guilty before God and Man of all the inſupportable calamities that our Kingdome of *Ireland* endures. Let all the world judge where the deſire of peace is, and upon whoſe account the bloud and confuſion which hath beene ſhed and muſt follow, ſhall be caſt, And whether the ſeverall Proclamations and Declarations publiſhed by us, have not beene extorted from us, by ſuch unheard of inſolencies and injuries, which no former times ever produced, neither can any ſober man wonder when Wee are publikely reproached, traduced, and reviled to our people (a practice never-knowne till this Parliament) that We endeavour by a true relation and Declaration of our Actions and Intentions, and of their Conſpiracies, who have vowed our deſtruction,

to informe our good Subjects of the cunning and malice they are to encounter with; and when a Combination is entred into to destroy Vs, and to alter the Religion and Law of the Kingdome, and to that purpose an Army raised and marching against us, that We proclaime the Generall of that Army and such who shall assist him in leavying a warre against us, to be Traitours and have set up our Royall Standard, and required all our good Subjects to come to our defence. And yet both in that Proclamation and in all our Declarations we have never accused our Parliament, but such factious, seditious Members of both Houses whom we have named, and whom We are ready to prove according to the rules of the knowne Law to be guilty of High Treason. We well know, and all the Kingdom knowes that of neere 500. Members, which the House of Commons contaynes, there remaines not now there 100. neither hath above such a number consented almost to any thing of which wee have ever complained, the rest have either beene driven away by Tumults and Threats of the Persons whom we have accused, or out of Conscience withdrawne themselves from their desperate Consultations, and of about 100. Peeres of the Realme, there are not above 15. or 16. who concurre in these miserable Resolutions, which disturbe the publike Peace, many of which being of desperate fortunes, have no other support, then the commands now given them to make war upon us, and now these men must sit upon the lives and fortunes of all the Nobility, Gentry, and Commons of *England*; and becaus we will not put our selfe into the hands, Government, and disposall of them, all our good Subjects are invited and encouraged to rebell against us, yet we have beene, and are still farre from accusing all that small number of both Houses who are yet left together, we believe many of them are misled by the cunning and malice, and frighted by the power of those men whom we have accused, against every one of whom we have evidence of matter of fact, that the knowne Law of the Land determines to be High Treason.

And now that all Our good Subjects may see how desirous these men and their adherents are to prevent the effusion of bloud, and the lasting miseries of a Civill Warre, they will make themselves so considerable, that except we will recall our Proclamations and Declarations whereby particular men named for particular Actions (which the Law hath defined to be Treason) are so accused, and others warned from involving themselves in their guilt, and except we will take downe our *Standard*, that our good Subjects may not repaire to us for our defence, when so many Armies are raised against us in severall parts of the kingdome, and ready to destroy us, and such of our good Subjects, who dare continue loyall to us, and except we will returne to *London*, from whence with violence we have beene driven, we must not be treated with, or receive any Answer to so gratious a Message.

It can no longer be doubted by any man, who hath not wilfully forsaken his understanding, that it is no more a quarrell undertaken by the Parliament, but contrived and fomented by the persons we have named, and now continued solely in their defence, to whose Ambition, Faction, and Malice, the true reformed

pro est in-

protestant Religion, the just Right, Honour, Safety, and life of us and our posterity the Law of the Land, which hath so long preserved this Nation happy, the liberty of the Subject established by that Law, and the glorious frame and constitution of this kingdome must be sacrificed. But as we have hitherto left no Action unperformed, which in honour, justice and Conscience we were obliged to doe, or in Christian policy and prudence wee could conceave might probably prevent these Calamities, so we thanke God he hath given us a full courage and resolution to run the utmost hazard of our life for the suppression of this horrible Rebellion, in the which no disproportion of power, Armes, or money shall discourage us; And we hope that all our good Subjects besides, by the common duty of Allegiance, will bee stirred up for their owne sakes, for the preservation of the blessed Protestant Religion, and for the upholding this whole admirable frame of Government which being dissolved, all their private and particular rights and Interest must bee immediately confounded, to bring in their utmost power and assistance unto us in this desperate exigent. And We doe declare that whosoever shall lose his life in this Service for our defence, the Wardship of his Heyre shall be granted by us without rent or Fyne to his owne use, and we shall hold our selfe obliged to take all possible care for the support, relieve, and protection of all their wives, and Children, who shall have the hard fortune to dye in this Service.

FINIS.